

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SCA-01

AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 /083 W
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O R 300547Z MAR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1821

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NY 0048

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IR, ICRC

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO KURDS

REF: GENEVA 2116; BAGHDAD 303 (NOTAL); STATE 60263;
TEHRAN 2238 AND 2750

1. GOI MAKING MAJOR EFFORT TO CONVINCE PUBLIC AND PARTICULARLY KURDS THAT WAR WITH "BARZANI CLIQUE" IS OVER AND ALL KURDS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AMNESTY BEING WELL RECEIVED. TV GIVING HEAVY COVERAGE TO KURDISH RETURNEES. FOUR MEMBERS OF BAATH REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ARE TOURING NORTHERN AREA TO DRAMATIZE GOI EFFORT. VISIT OF IRANIAN PM HOVEYDA ALSO BEING PLAYED IN WAY TO EMPHASIZE NATIONAL RECONCILLIATION OF BOTH KURD AND SHIA COMMUNITIES (BAGHDAD 335).

2. USINT HAS NO INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF GOI CLAIMS THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF KURDS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AMNESTY. NEWSDAY
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REPORTER KNUT ROYCE WITNESSED SOME PESH MERGA SURRENDERING

AND CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS 50 PERCENT STAGED AND 50 PERCENT REAL. BBC REPORT THAT TURKEY HAS MOVED TROOPS TO BORDER TO PREVENT KURDS FROM CROSSING INTO TURKEY SUGGESTS THAT MANY KURDS PREFER TO MOVE INTO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES RATHER THAN LIVE UNDER BAATH REGIME.

3. RE ELIGIBILITY OF KURDISH REFUGEES FOR IMMIGRATION TO U.S.; STRONGLY CONCUR WITH VIEW IN TEHRAN 2238 THAT APPLICATIONS COULD SWELL IF REFUGEES LEARN THIS POSSIBLE. ONE MIGHT ALSO ASK ABOUT FUTURE POSSIBILITY OF KURDS FROM TURKEY GOING TO THIRD COUNTRY AND CLAIMING REFUGEE STATUS.

4. RE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KURDS IN IRAQ; DISCUSSIONS WITH WESTERN COLLEAGUES HAS CONFIRMED MY VIEW AS STATED BAGHDAD 303 THAT GOI NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY ASSISTANCE FOR KURDS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ACTING DG OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN MFA, DURING MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECT MARCH 24, TOLD ME THAT GOI CONSIDERS KURDISH RESETTLEMENT STRICTLY INTERNAL MATTER FOR WHICH IT HAS AMPLE RESOURCES. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ANY APPROACH TO GOI ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE PRESUMPTUOUS AND FUTILE AND THAT FURTHER WE SHOULD GO IN OUR PUBLIC POSITION IS EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ANY EFFORT WORKED OUT BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND IRAQI GOVERNMENT.

5. RE EXTENSION OF AMNESTY AND CEASEFIRE; IF IRANIANS UNWILLING TO MAKE REQUEST TO IRAQIS, IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT OTHER PARTIES SUCH AS ALGERIANS OR EGYPTIANS WOULD BE LISTENED TO BY GOI. AS FAR AS I KNOW GOI IS CONTINUING TO PERMIT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TO TRAVEL IN NORTH AND I REITERATE RECOMMENDATION THAT DEPT URGE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF REPORTERS TO VISIT KURDISTAN VIA BAGHDAD AS ONE WAY OF KEEPING SPOTLIGHT ON PROBLEM AND AVERTING POSSIBLE IRAQI PUNISHMENT OF INNOCENT KURDS.

6. PRESS ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT DR. SAADUN KHALIFA OF HEALTH MINISTRY AND DELEGATION OF IRAQI RED CRESCENT OFFICIALS ARE NOW IN IRAN IN CONNECTION WITH REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES, IN COOPERATION WITH IRANIAN LION AND SUN. OUTCOME OF THIS MISSION SHOULD GIVE US GOOD INDICATION OF EXTENT OF REFUGEE PROBLEM.

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